

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 /130 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8323  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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PLEASE PASS TO DAVID SHEAR AND JOHN WITHERS OF AID

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: FR, PGOV, GB, CM  
SUBJECT: FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

1. A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN THE SPRING OF 1975 IS BECOMING ANOTHER VEHICLE FOR CHANNELING GOF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE THIRD WORLD AND ESPECIALLY FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. ITS NAME IS ASSOCIATION POUR LE PROMOTION COMMUNALE INTERNATIONALE (APCI). IT IS PRE-SIDED BY ALAIN POHER, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND ITS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COOPERATION AND FOREIGN TRADE. ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS OF FRANCE AND THE HEAD OF THE COOPERATION FUND. ANOTHER INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS THAT IT INCLUDES PERSONALITIES FROM ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE PCF.

2. THE APCI SECRETARY GENERAL IS EDOUARD GOURTOVOY, ABOUT 40, MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND PRESENTLY MAYOR OF

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A SMALL TOWN NEAR MONTELIMAR. HE IS ENERGETIC AND IMAGINATIVE AND VERY MUCH THE TYPE OF A PERSON WHO GETS THINGS DONE ESPECIALLY IF IT REQUIRES COORDINATION OF COMPETING PERSONALITIES AND PULLING GOVERNMENTAL STRINGS.

3. AS SUGGESTED BY ITS VERY NAME, THE PURPOSE OF APCI IS

TO SPECIALIZE IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO APCI THIS IS AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN NEGLECTED BY EVERYONE AND YET IT IS AN AREA IN WHICH THE LDCS ARE PARTICULARLY WEAK.

4. THERE ARE ALREADY TWO PROJECTS UNDERWAY FOR WHICH APCI IS RESPONSIBLE:

A) IN GABON WHERE A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN APCI AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON TO PROVIDE FOUR EXPERTS IN THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE LIFE AT A COST OF 5 MILLION FRANCS;

B) IN CAMEROON WHERE THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION CENTER FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL. IT IS ALSO FOR THREE YEARS AT A COST TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF 6 1/2 MILLION FRANCS.

5. THE HOST GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATES IN THE FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES FOR THE FOREIGN TECHNICIANS.

6. ONE OF THE INTERESTING SIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF APCI IS THAT IT HAS CHALLENGED THE COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION FEDERATION MONDIALE DES VILLER JUMEELES - FMVJ - (WORLD FEDERATION OF TWIN CITIES) AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING THE SECRETARIAT FOR COOPERATION TO SUSPEND THE SUBSIDIES THAT HAD BEEN PAID TO IT. APCI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS TAKEN SIMILAR ACTION WITH THE QUAI TO SEVER ITS RELATIONS WITH THE FMVJ.

7. MR. GOURTOVOY HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN EXPLORING WITH USAID THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT PROJECTS FALLING WITHIN THE APCI SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES. HE HAD TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT THE U.S. AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY BUT HIS PLANS HAD BEEN CHANGED AND IS NOW IN NEW YORK. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FROM HIS APCI OFFICE WE GAVE GOURTOVOY THE NAMES OF DAVID SHEAR AND JOHN WITHERS TO CALL FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE FOREGOING.

8. GOURTOVOY SPEAKS ENGLISH AND IS WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HIS UNUSUAL INTEREST IN ASSOCIATING AID IN FRENCH PROJECTS IN AFRICA CERTAINLY MERITS ATTENTION. GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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